



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDS WILL BUY 250 BULLETPROOF VESTS FOR HAWAII'S DEPUTY SHERIFFS

HONOLULU -- John F. Peyton, Jr, director of the Hawaii Department of Public Safety, announced today that the department is buying 250 fitted bulletproof vests for the entire State deputy sheriffs department. The funds in excess of \$163,000 were provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"Getting lifesaving vests for all of our sheriff deputies has been a number one priority for this department," said Peyton. "We appreciate Department of Homeland Security providing Hawaii with the funds to purchase vests."

The deputy sheriffs will be getting their new vests in about a month. They must be measured for size because the vests are custom made.

The department's announcement comes on the same day that the United State Deputy Sheriffs Association announced it will donate 40 vests to Hawaii deputy sheriffs.

"The donation of 40 bulletproof vests to this department by the United States Deputy Sheriffs' Association (USDSA) is just another step in our long association with that group," said Director Peyton. "However, the statement by HGEA's executive director that this department has failed to act on requests to purchase vests is not true. We have been working diligently to get this federal funding. We will not let the safety of our deputy sheriffs be compromised in anyway."

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